MINISTRY OF WELFARE

90. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India Ltd.

Ministry of Science and Technology Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

91. Central Electronics Ltd.

News item captioned 'Pak rejects US sugestion to sign NPT'

794. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 19th February, 1987 captioned 'Pak rejects US suggestion to sign NPT' (non-Proliferation Treaty);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and its implications on the sub-continent;

(c) Whether it is a fact that Pakistan has offered to the United States its intention to sign a global, regional or bilateral treaty regarding non-proliferation in South Asia; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The US Ambassador in Pakistan reiterated his Government's suggestion in a speech in Islamabad on the 16th February, 1987. Pakistan's rejection could be viewed in the context of the non-peaceful dimension of its nuclear programme.

(c) and (d) Pakistan has offered to sign the NPT simultaneously with India. However, Government's stand on the NPT has nothing to do with its relations with Pakistan but is governed by the fact that Government regards the NPT as discriminatory.

Import of textile machines

795. SHRI GURUDAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow duty-free import of all types of textile machines;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether such machines are available indigenously; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for allowing their import duty free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Most of the textile machines are manufactured in India.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a).

News items captioned 'Mission staff in US bitter over low pay'

796. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 8th January, 1987 captioned 'Mission staff in US bitter over low pay'; and